

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 13066 191716Z

61

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 EB-11 COA-02 DLOS-06

SCI-06 PRS-01 CG-00 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /107 W

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R 191440Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3214

INFO USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T MOSCOW 13066

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN UR US

SUBJ: ARTEMIS/NAKHODKA COLLISION

REF: STATE 19948

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED BY MESSENGER ON OCTOBER 19 A NOTE FROM MFA (DATED OCTOBER 18) RESPONDING TO DEPARTMENT'S NOTE OF OCTOBER 3 REGARDING ARTEMIS/NAKHODKA COLLISION (REFTEL). EMBASSY'S TRANSLATION FOLLOWS: ORIGINAL OF NOTE BEING FORWARDED UNDER AIRGRAM.

2. BEGIN TEXT: NO. 79/USA

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND, REFERRING TO THE NOTE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE OF THE USA DATED OCTOBER 3, 1973, STATES THE FOLLOWING.

THE COMPETENT SOVIET ORGANS HAVE CAREFULLY INVESTIGATED THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE COLLISION WHICH TOOK PLACE BETWEEN THE U.S. RESEARCH VESSEL "ARTEMIS" AND THE SOVIET HYDROGRAPHIC VESSEL "NAKHODKA". THE RESULTS OF THE REVIEW DO NOT CONFIRM THE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE SOVIET VESSEL CONTAINED IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S NOTE CONCERNING DELIBERATE ACTIONS WHICH SUPPOSEDLY,

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 13066 191716Z

CAUSED ITS COLLISION WITH THE U.S. VESSEL ("ARTEMIS").

THE SOVIET VESSEL "NAKHODKA" WAS ENGAGING IN RESEARCH WORK IN THE NORTHEAST ATLANTIC IN FULL ACCORDANCE WITH THE EXISTING STANDARDS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW ON FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION ON THE HIGH SEAS. IN SO DOING, BEING GUIDED BY THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION ON THE HIGH SEAS OF 1958, IT REASONABLY TOOK ACCOUNT OF THE INTERESTS OF OTHER VESSELS IN THE AREA AND DID NOT INTERFER WITH THEIR ACTIVITY.

ON SEPTEMBER 4, 1973, THE VESSEL "NAKHODKA" WAS DRIFTING (LEZHALO V DREYFE) AT A SAFE DISTANCE ASTERN THE VESSEL "ARTEMIS." AT 16:05 (MOSCOW TIME), WHEN THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE VESSELS WAS THREE CABLE LENGTHS, THE VESSEL "ARTEMIS" WITHOUT WARNING BY APPROPRIATE SIGNALA WENT INTO REVERSE AND AT 16:09 RAMMER ITS STERN INTO THE PROW OF THE SOVIET VESSEL.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE SOVIET SIDE INDICATES THAT THE VESSELS DID NOT SUFFER ANY SERIOUS DAMAGE, AND THAT THERE WERE NO CLAIMS RAISED BY EITHER SIDE ON THE SPOT. CONSIDERING THIS, THE SOVIET SIDE DEEMED IT POSSIBLE TO REFRAIN FROM REPRESENTATION WITH REGARD TO THE INCIDENT.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE FACTS SET FORTH, THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT SEES NO BASIS FOR THE PROTEST CONTAINED IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S NOTE, NOR FOR ANY CLAIMS FOR DAMAGES TO BE SUBMITTED BY THE AMERICAN SIDE.

MOSCOW, OCTOBER 18, 1973.

END TEXT.

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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